



# Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Matters

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## Quagga Mussel Invades AZ



## Bills Supported by the Commission

The Following Bills are supported by the Game and Fish Commission:

- **HB 2093/SB1355** *goldwater range; concurrent jurisdiction*
- **HB 2116** *big game permits; grandchildren*
- **HB 2117** *big game permits; transfers*
- **SB 1305** *veterans; disabled fishing licenses*

## Invasive Mussels found at CAP intakes on Lake Havasu

***Officials fear the invasion could spread to the interior of Arizona***

PHOENIX – Divers have found quagga mussels at the Central Arizona Project (CAP) intakes at Lake Havasu earlier this week and officials fear this invasive mollusk could spread into central Arizona lakes.

The CAP canal is one pathway for these invasive mussels to spread into central Arizona, but these aquatic invaders could also hitchhike on boats coming from the Colorado River lakes that have already been infested.

"Quagga mussels could spread into Lake Pleasant, if they haven't already. These prolific invaders pose a significant, multi-million-dollar threat to our lakes, rivers, streams and water systems," says Larry Riley, the fisheries chief for the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

The CAP canal provides water to the interior of Arizona and stretches into the Phoenix and Tucson areas. Lake Pleasant on the northern edge of Phoenix is filled each year with Central Arizona Project water.

## Arizona Bald Eagles



Efforts are underway to examine this long canal stretching across the state to determine if these mussels have established themselves.

During the last two weeks since their discovery at Lake Mead on Jan. 6, quagga mussels have been confirmed at lakes Mohave and Havasu, including adjacent to the structure that pump water from Havasu to parts of southern California. The invasive mussels have also been found at a fish hatchery in Nevada that provides trout to Lake Mead and Lake Mohave. Fish deliveries from that hatchery have been suspended until new procedures are in place to avoid the spread of these mussels.

The Dreissena species of mussels, which includes two closely related mussels, the zebra and quagga, are less than an inch long, but are extremely prolific. A single one of these mollusks is capable of producing up to a million microscopic larvae in a year.

Quagga mussels can be found at much lower depths than zebra mussels, which is not good news for the deep reservoirs often found in the West. These rapidly-spreading invaders can clog pipelines; damage machinery, such as boat engines; harm fishery resources and befoul bodies of water with waste. In time, they can permanently alter a lake's ecosystem.

These small invasive mussels, which originally came from Eastern Europe, have been causing multimillion-dollar problems in the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basin. The Colorado River is 1,000 miles farther west than any previously known colonies of these mollusk invaders.

### **Arizona takes steps to secure bald eagles future**

PHOENIX - One of our nation's greatest symbols - the bald eagle - today received the assurance of continued protection in Arizona as a broad coalition of public agencies and private businesses signed a Bald Eagle Conservation Agreement. Representatives from Gov. Janet Napolitano's office, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were among those on hand for a signing ceremony at the Phoenix Zoo. The agreement pledges to continue key bald eagle conservation efforts in the state.

"The bald eagle has made tremendous strides to recovery both nationally and in Arizona, but this multi-partner agreement is a critical element to ensuring its continued success," says Duane Shroufe, director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "Arizona Game and Fish is proud of the cooperative efforts to aid the bald eagle and the commitment to continue conservation measures."



Bald eagle conservation efforts have been guided since 1982 by a recovery plan and managed by the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee (SWBEMC), a coalition of government agencies, Native American tribes and private businesses. Protection efforts include bald eagle survey flights to assess population counts and nesting activity; banding of adult and immature bald eagles for identification and to track their activity patterns; closures at state recreation areas during eagle breeding seasons to help provide eagles with optimal breeding conditions; and a nest watch program.



The Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program is a cooperative effort of multiple agencies to monitor bald eagle breeding areas under heavy pressure from human recreational activities. The nest watchers spend four months camping in bald eagle areas to protect the birds while they are nesting and raising young. The nest watchers also help educate the public on the importance of not disrupting the breeding process.

"Arizona takes its role in bald eagle conservation very seriously and aims to be a leader in its protection efforts," comments Eric Gardner, head of Game and Fish's nongame branch. "Nest watching is just one tool the partners will continue using to protect and conserve the bald eagle, but over the years it has proven very effective, saving the lives of 44 eagle nestlings."

"We are proud to have been a leader in the bald eagle's recovery nationally, but the credit for the eagle's remarkable comeback in Arizona goes first and foremost to the leadership of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the work of the Southwestern Bald Eagle



Management Committee," noted Steve Spangle, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Arizona field supervisor.

Arizona currently has 43 breeding pairs of bald eagles that live across lands managed by a variety of agencies and Native American Tribes, making cooperation among the groups imperative. The 22 partners in the SWBEMC include the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife Department, USDA Forest Service, Tonto Apache Tribe, Arizona Department of Transportation, APS, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Arizona State Parks, Salt River Project, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, GeoMarine, Inc., and U.S. Department of Defense - Luke Air Force Base.

## February Events

### February Key Dates & Events

#### **Feb. 1-28, 2007**

1:00 p.m.

##### Daily Guided Tour

How old are saguaros? What bird drilled those rows of parallel holes in eucalyptus tree bark? Learn about desert plants and animals on a daily guided walking tour lead by Arizona State Parks volunteers at Boyce Thompson Arboretum this month and throughout the Winter (Daily except December 25, the Arboretum is closed). Meet in the visitor center lobby at 1:00 p.m.; tours typically last about 60-90 minutes and proceed along the main trail, seeing most Arboretum collections. Walks are included with adult admission of \$7.50, or \$3 for ages 5-12. The Arboretum is located at U.S. 60, milepost 223, about one hour due east of Phoenix.



#### **Feb. 2-4, 2007**

1:00 p.m.

##### Becoming an Outdoors Woman Deluxe Camp

This retreat will include lots of outdoor fun without the inconveniences of camping. The Arizona Wildlife Federation will be sponsoring its second annual winter Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshop at the Goldfield Mountain Range. This retreat will showcase the beauty and wonder of our Sonoran Desert at Saguaro Lake Ranch, a historical resort style retreat located in the Tonto National Forest. The banks of the Salt River are a fly rod cast away and Stewart Mountain Dam, which backs up Saguaro Lake, is a short walk. There will numerous fishing opportunities for beginning and intermediate anglers, including





bass fishing with Bass pro Chad Witty, bow fishing with World Class Archer Kathy Green, beginning fishing with AZ Game & Fish, and intermediate fly fishing with the Desert Fly Casters. The Arizona Audubon Society will be there pointing out a variety of birds, both winter visitors and native species. We've planned sessions on hunting desert critters like javelina and Coues deer, a varmint call stand, field archery, natural history of the desert, canoeing & kayaking, and dutch oven cooking. For those who feel the need to explore the Goldfields, there will be hiking, photography, and trick, track, trail Sonoran style. There will also be horseback rides for everyone. We are working on evening activities that include cowboy singing around the campfire, a presentation on bats and wildlife bingo. The cost is \$420, which includes a horseback ride, instruction, program materials, use of equipment, deluxe lodging and meals Friday evening through Sunday noon. Details of class descriptions can be found at [www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org) or call 480-644-0077.

### **February 3, 11, 17 and 25, 2007**

8:30 a.m.

#### **Weekend Birdwalks**

Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas co-author Troy Corman is among birdwalk guides at Boyce Thompson Arboretum; attend this series to hone skills such as birding-by-ear. Walks are offered at 8:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturday and also the second and fourth Sunday during February, March and April. Walks are included with adult admission of \$7.50, or \$3 for ages 5-12. The Arboretum is located at U.S. 60, milepost 223, about one hour due east of Phoenix.

### **Feb. 3, 2007**

9:00 a.m.

#### **Bald Eagle Natural History Program**

Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists will conduct an educational seminar for the public on bald eagle natural history at the department's Pinetop regional office on Saturday, Feb. 3, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The program is free to the public, but because of limited seating, interested participants will need to RSVP to reserve a spot. The program will consist of a classroom presentation and discussion of bald eagle life history, behavior patterns and their current status in Arizona and North America. This will be followed by an optional field trip to a local lake to observe eagle behavior first-hand. Participants are advised to dress appropriately for weather conditions that day, and to bring a set of binoculars or spotting scope for improved observation. Program will run approximately three hours. Interested parties must pre-register on a first-come first-served basis. Registration can be done by calling the Pinetop office at (928) 367-4281, and giving a name, contact phone number and the number of people attending to one of the customer service representatives.



### **Feb. 6, 2007**

7:30 p.m.



### Nesting Roadrunners

Join Sonoran Audubon members Al and Arlene Scheuer as they present a video they created of the breeding, nest building, egg laying, feeding and fledging of a roadrunner family from February through May 2001 on their two-acre Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Their property has been certified by the National Wildlife Federation, and contributes research to the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology. Many of us have seen adult roadrunners in Arizona, but how many have had the privilege of actually seeing a family raise and fledge young? Meetings are held in Dorrance Hall at the Desert Botanical Garden. The Garden is located at 1201 North Galvin Parkway in Phoenix, which is approximately 1/2 mile north of the Phoenix Zoo. Dorrance Hall is located off the main parking lot and entry to the garden. There will be signs directing you to the meeting. Visit [maricopaaudubon.org](http://maricopaaudubon.org) for more information.

### **Feb. 9-11, 2007**

8:00 a.m.

#### First Shots

In partnership with Game and Fish and the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, the First Shots program is a way to reach out to residents in their community by hosting sessions composed of classroom and range time. Events are designed to offer residents a welcoming introduction to the safe, recreational use of handguns. First Shots events provide the public with a chance to learn the rules and requirements of handgun ownership along with comprehensive information on safety, shooting sports opportunities, individual and group training and range access. It also answers new shooters' questions regarding firearms and firearm ownership. Events will be held Feb. 9 at 5 p.m., Feb. 10 at 8 a.m. and Feb. 11 at 8 a.m. Contact (602) 789-3241 for registration



### **Feb. 10 and 25, 2007**

1:30 p.m.

#### Edible / Medicinal Desert Plants Guided Walk

Walk the Curandero Trail at Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park and learn some of the ways native people of the Sonoran Desert have used plants for food, medicine and fiber over thousands of years. Apache Junction author Jean Groen leads the Feb. 10, and stick around when the walk is done - Jean usually shares nopalito soup or other desert snacks. Choctaw Nation member and ethnobotanist David Morris will guide this tour again on Feb. 25. Please note: the Curandero Trail has moderately steep sections and is not accessible by wheelchair. Walks are included with adult admission of \$7.50, or \$3 for ages 5-12. The Arboretum is located at U.S. 60, milepost 223, about one hour due east of Phoenix.

### **Feb. 15, 2007**

5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### Nature-based Evening with Richard Louv

In these times of video games and hundreds of cable television

channels, you may find it difficult to get your children outside, enjoying nature and outdoor recreation. The Arizona Game and Fish Department is sponsoring an event that talks about reconnecting our children with the great outdoors.

You can attend "A Nature-based Evening with Richard Louv" at the Phoenix Zoo on Thursday, Feb. 15 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Author Richard Louv's most recent book, "Last Child in the Woods," discusses what he calls "nature-deficit disorder." In the book, Louv talks with parents, children, teachers, scientists, child-development researchers and others in a quest to find ways for children to experience the natural world more deeply.

The event at the zoo is designed for the whole family. You can take a relaxing stroll along the zoo's Tropics Trail. Then, kids can join the zoo's education staff for nature-based activities, while adults listen to Louv's lecture. Tickets are \$25 per adult and \$5 per child. Seating is limited for this outside event. Call the zoo at (602) 914-4333 for more information.



#### **Feb. 17, 2007**

9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

##### **Bald Eagle Workshop**

This year's bald eagle workshop will be held on two Saturdays in February. Participants can sign up to attend one of the free workshops on Feb. 17 or the 24. Each day will have a morning session at 9 a.m. and an afternoon session starting at 1 p.m. Those attending can expect a lecture held on the NAU campus in the forestry building followed by a field trip down Lake Mary Road. Please contact the Arizona Game and Fish Flagstaff office to sign up for a spot at one of the four sessions. The number is (928) 774-5045. Remember to dress appropriately and bring binoculars, snacks, and field guide books.

#### **Feb. 18**

8:00 a.m.

##### **Bikers Soar for Wildlife Poker Run**

Enjoy a day of riding through Arizona's beautiful landscape on a poker run to benefit the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center. The rehabilitation center treats more than 1,000 sick and injured animals annually, provides wildlife education to local schools and outreach to community groups. Registration and breakfast begin at 8:00 a.m., followed by a 120-mile ride beginning at Hal-O-Penos Mexican Cafe at 3575 W. Northern Ave. and ending at Pioneer Village (Pioneer Rd. and I-17). Throughout the route, riders will stop at designated locations to collect a playing card, with the best hand of five cards winning a prize at the end of the ride. Winners of the poker run will be announced at the end of the ride and lunch will be provided for all registered riders. Festivities also will include a live band, prizes and wildlife exhibits. For more information, visit [azwildlifecenter.org/events](http://azwildlifecenter.org/events) or call (623) 587-0139.

**Feb. 24, 2007**

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**5th Annual Paw Placement Trail Trek**

Join Paw Placement and the Canine Hiking Club of Arizona for a 1 or 3-mile fundraiser hike in the beautiful Arizona Horse Lovers Park at 19224 N. Tatum Blvd. in Phoenix (on Tatum just south of the 101 freeway) Festivities will include dog adoptions, a silent auction, raffle prizes, dozens of pet and outdoor related exhibitor booths, canine contests, free munchies and drinks, and much more. It's fun for the whole family. All friendly, leashed dogs are welcome. Cost for the hike before Feb. 24 is \$20 per person (kids under 12 trek free). Cost on Feb. 24 is \$25 per person. Attendance at the pet friendly festival is free. For more details or to pre-register visit our Web site at [pawplacement.org](http://pawplacement.org). All proceeds benefit Paw Placement no-kill 501 (c) 3 animal rescue.

**Feb. 24, 2007**

9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

**Bald Eagle Workshop**

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*Department Staff have contributed to this publication in the form of articles and photographs.*

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**Wildlife Matters**

Legislative Affairs